

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and funding of the Texas student connectivity account; imposing a fee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 48.304 to read as follows:

Sec. 48.304. TEXAS STUDENT CONNECTIVITY ACCOUNT. (a) In this section:

(1) "Account" means the Texas student connectivity account.

(2) "Wireless service provider" and "wireless telecommunications connection" have the meanings assigned by Section 771.001, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The Texas student connectivity account is an account in the general revenue fund administered by the agency.

(c) The account consists of:

(1) money deposited to the credit of the account as provided by this section or other law; and

(2) gifts, grants, and donations to the account.

(d) A Texas student connectivity fee of \$2 is imposed on each wireless telecommunications connection each month. A wireless service provider shall:

(1) collect the fee from the provider's subscribers;
and

1 (2) not later than the 30th day after the last day of
2 the month during which the fee is collected except as otherwise
3 provided under Subsection (e), remit the collected fee to the
4 comptroller, accompanied by a report in a form the comptroller
5 determines that contains the total amount collected from the
6 provider's subscribers and remitted by the provider for the report
7 month.

8 (e) The comptroller by rule may establish alternative dates
9 for the remittance of a fee and report under Subsection (d).

10 (f) The comptroller shall deposit a fee remitted under this
11 section to the credit of the account. Money in the account may be
12 appropriated only to the agency to:

13 (1) provide matching funds necessary to obtain federal
14 money available to school districts to expand or upgrade broadband
15 Internet infrastructure, including federal money available under
16 the Schools and Libraries Program ("E-rate program") as provided by
17 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F; and

18 (2) reimburse school districts with a high percentage
19 of economically disadvantaged students for the cost of providing
20 Internet connectivity or technology to students for educational
21 purposes.

22 (g) The commissioner and comptroller may adopt rules to
23 administer this section.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.